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VISIONS SEEN BY SOLDIERS

Men at the Front Firmly Convinced They Have Been Witnesses of Supernatural Things.

In periods of great national stress, when the responsibilities facing a people call for an effort superhuman, the mind is more prone than in times less tense to place dependence upon divine aid and to believe that supernatural powers are exerting their might.

This tendency is embodied in a little column entitled "The Bowman and Other Legends of the War," written by Arthur Machen.

The potent character of these tales of latter-day miracles is well exemplified by the fact that the story of "The Bowman," with its allusion to the appearance of a supernatural host, has been accepted widely in England as fact.

Upon its publication in serial form, there came to the author scattered inquiries from editors of occult journals as to the foundation of the story. When the author denied that his composition had any basis in fact, to his amazement, some of his correspondents maintained that he must be mistaken. In provincial papers hot controversy was waged regarding the exact nature of the appearance.

Bishop Weldon, Dean Hensley, Henson, Bishop Taylor Smith (the chaplain-general), and many other clergy have occupied themselves with the matter. Doctor Horton preached about the "Angels" at Manchester; Sir Joseph Compton Rickett (president of the National Federation of Free Church Councils), stated that the soldiers at the front had seen visions and dreamed dreams, and had given testimony of powers and principalities fighting for them or against them.

MANY BELIEVE IN CHARMS

Soldiers of the Kaiser's Army Put Their Faith in All Kinds of Peculiar Amulets.

The soldiers of the kaiser are very superstitious, from the men in the ranks clear up to the crown prince. Wilhelm's eldest son carries a horseshoe with him on all his auto trips, and the crown prince spends most of the day in his auto. The horseshoe is attached to one of the doors of the car and when being photographed in his auto, the prince always insists on the photographer "taking" the side of the car with the horseshoe.

The soldiers of Wuertemberg pin their faith upon a little bag containing the dry pollen of flowers, which, they believe, has the power of warding off the bullets.

The Saxons sew into the lining of their waistcoats the wings of a bat, and think themselves to be invincible.

The Bavarians hold on tenaciously to a still more bizarre custom. Before going into battle each soldier finds a birch tree, cuts his skin, and lets a few drops of blood fall upon the tree. This ceremony, they assert, assures recovery, no matter what the nature of the wound, when the leaves begin to grow again.

Flying War Horse.
 A correspondent of the Milan "Corriere della Sera" reports the following story:

"An Italian lieutenant recently rode through one of the villages on the Isonzo front. He dismounted before the temporary quarters of the commander of his regiment and tied his horse to a tree. When he entered the house he heard the humming noise of a large Austrian shell and a moment later a terrible explosion followed. The shell had struck a small building on the opposite side of the street. An immense cloud of smoke and dust rose and when it disappeared the horse of the officer was gone.

"The air pressure caused by the explosion had lifted the animal from the ground and thrown it on the flat roof of a nearby house, where it was found almost unhurt. It was no easy job to get the horse to the street again, as this could only be accomplished with the aid of a large crane."

Washrag's Turn to Go.

Washrag! The washrag must go. The United States public health service agency has so decided. It must follow the towel, the drinking cup, the hairbrush and the habit of kissing. We knew it was coming. Next we expect that an embargo will be placed on shaking hands and on the use of straps for the stand-ups in street cars. After they have once been handled, they will have to be destroyed. There might be a wandering germ that would locate on somebody's palm, you know. With all our fads, and fancies, are we any healthier than our forebears were? Do we live longer? Do we bring up better children? Are we better ourselves physically or morally? But what's the use?—Leslie's.

Boy Wins War Cross.

Quincy Chaston, fourteen years old, who is just out of the great hospital, has been awarded a cross for valiant service in the French army. Because of his age Minister Millerand has decided to let him go home. Chaston is recognized as the youngest soldier in the French army.

Chaston left his home in Fontainebleau in August, 1914. He was told he was too young to enlist, but he followed a regiment of infantry and managed to stay with it. He took part in the Marne and Aisne battles. At Fontenoy, despite the fact he was shot through the shoulder, he managed to capture two Germans. Later he was badly wounded in the knee.

SLIDING SCALE FOR NOBLES

Duration of Titles in the Land of Confucius Is to Be Definitely Fixed by Statute.

The question as to the exact status of China, whether it is a republic, empire, kingdom or what, is a complicated one—but perhaps the president will resolve our doubts before many years are past by being proclaimed emperor. For the present one does not know what to think on reading of the remarkable sliding scale peerage system that is to be submitted to the next parliament for approval. This limits the duration of titles in any one family as follows:

Dukedom; inherited for five generations successively invested with princedom, marquessate, earldom, viscounty and baronetcy.

Princedom; inherited for four generations successively invested with marquessate, earldom, viscounty and baronetcy.

Marquessate; inherited for three generations successively invested with earldom, viscounty and baronetcy.

Earldom; inherited for two generations successively invested with viscounty and baronetcy.

Viscounty; inherited by one lineal descendant invested with baronetcy.

Baronetcy; not hereditary. The foresight in this remarkable roster is the fact that the president's family alone is to be perpetually hereditary.

BROUGHT BACK OTHER DAYS

Biscuit Revived Sad Memories in the Breast of Hobo Who Received "Handout."

Congressman Henry A. Cooper of Wisconsin largely smiled the other day when the conversation in the lobby of a hotel turned to fond memories. He said he was reminded of the sad emotions of a poor old hobo.

One afternoon the hobo in question rambled up the garden walk of a suburban home and obsequiously asked for bread. Some home-made biscuit were given him and a few minutes later he was shaking with sobs.

"What seems to be the matter, my poor man?" asked the tender-hearted housewife. "Are you thinking of other days?"

"Yes, lady," answered the hobo, with another quiver of his weary frame.

"Of dear friends and relatives, I suppose," suggested the housewife, "and of the home you used to have."

"No, lady," was the startling response of the tramp. "I was thinking of the stones I used to have to break in a quarry at Rockville."—Philadelphia Telegraph.

Price of a Fur Coat.

Dr. Anna Howard Shaw, the suffragist, said at a dinner in Philadelphia:

"I'd rather see a woman wrapped up in politics than wrapped up in dress. It's less expensive, too."

"They talk a lot about these anti-these home bodies; but I was visiting such a woman once. It was about this time of the year, and the little daughter of the house began to read from one of her school books."

"In winter," she read, "every animal puts on a new fur coat which—"

"But the little girl's father turned pale, shuddered and snatched away the book."

"Alice, be still," he murmured hoarsely. "Don't you know your mother is lying down in the next room?"—Washington Star.

At Work Despite War.

The International Institute of Agriculture is one of the most remarkable examples extant of co-operative effort among the nations in humanitarian and scientific work. Since the present war began its activities have proceeded almost as in times of peace, though it is to be feared that the entrance of Italy into the conflict will prove a formidable handicap, as the institute has its headquarters in Rome. As if to emphasize its superiority to the present political situation, the institute has published a pamphlet, dated Rome, 1915, giving an interesting history and description of this great international enterprise, and making no allusion to the war.

Are You Operating a Mosquito Farm?

Do you know that you are probably a breeder of mosquitoes? Many a man keeps a regular mosquito farm and does not know it. Are you one of this kind? You are, if on your premises you have open water barrels, empty tin cans, open water tanks, marshy or low ground that holds the water after rain. Of course, if you like being bitten by mosquitoes and like to run the risk of having them carry to you some kind of disease, why you will not do anything to destroy the mosquito-breeding places. If the people of every community would get together on the mosquito question, the "domestic" mosquito could be eliminated.

Kaiser Believes in Divining Rods.

The use of the divining rod by the German armies for discovering water, as is reported, is probably due to the kaiser, whose faith in the power of the "magic hazel twig" is implicit. After watching many experiments by German "diviners," he expressed conviction of the utility of the practice for the discovery not only of water but of metals. Some years ago he sent a special "diviner" to German Southwest Africa to prospect for water and gold, and the modern Dousterswivel claimed the discovery of more than one hundred wells by means of his sensitive rod.

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